

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~COUNTRY Czechoslovakia Approved For Release 2003/08/06 : CIA-RDP82-00457R010500030006-0TOPIC Border Fortifications in the Cheb Area

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DATE OF CONTENT 1 to 10 December 1951

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DATE PREPARED 14 January 1952

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PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TITLE) _____

REMARKS _____

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1. On 1 December 1951, a military detail of about 25 men started constructing a wire entanglement along the border south of the road from Cheb (N 51/P 37) to Schirnding in Bavaria. The obstacle was erected on the rear edge of a 20-meter wide trace strip cleared of all vegetation. Posts, about 2.5 meters long, were placed about ten meters apart and were braced by wire struts attached to shorter posts placed about two meters behind them. Large rolls of barbed wire were then fastened to the posts, forming a barbed-wire obstacle, two meters high and two meters wide. Prior to about 10 December no such work was observed north of the road from Cheb to Schirnding.

2. During the nights of 5 and 6 December 1951, [] a series of ground flares (Leuchtkugeln) being fired along the border sector mentioned in paragraph 1. About ten ground flares in a row were released almost simultaneously, apparently automatically. *

* [] Comment. Various reports made during the fall of 1951 indicate that the entire western border of Czechoslovakia is being secured by field fortifications and specially prepared trace strips. []

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